reading the first chapter, which was an account of a young female geologist eyeballing strata exposed near a New York City roadcut while truckdrivers were tooting their horns at her, I was questioning how accurately the title reflected the contents of the book. Might this be an *avant-garde* girl-meets rock book? Something one should expect from progressive authors in the Big Apple? I was dismayed at this prospect because the Basin and Range Province is my favorite landscape. With uncharacteristic perseverance I read on, and I am delighted that I did.

John McPhee has written a reader-friendly book that makes angular unconformities fun. The book is a narrative account by a non-geologist of a trip across the U.S.A. on Interstate 80 in the accompaniment of an accomplished geologist. The actual trip occurred sometime in the late 1970s, but the author also describes imagined trips along the same route in the distant past as well as in the future. From this, one understands the literary licence taken in the first chapter: long ago as New York and North Africa separated from one another, block faulting wrinkled their rocky skins into a basin and range landscape in exactly the same manner as is happening or has happened in Nevada and Utah. This is learning made easy.

It is not all hard rock geology either. There are short and sweet discourses on such things as interactions of unconsolidated volcanic depositions and MX missiles, prominent geologists in the past and present, jibes at *Genesis,* local lore (e.g., dust plumes trailing speeding pickup trucks are known as Nevada door bells), and a host of other topics.

I cannot recommend this book for all ecologists, just for those who like to learn their geology in palatable doses, preferably after supper and with their feet up. And if you have ever worked in the Great Basin then you will be delighted with the book.—FRANK FORCELLA, CSIRO, Division of Plant Industry, Canberra City, A.C.T. 2601, Australia.

Flora of the Central Wasatch Front, Utah, 2nd Ed., revised by LOIS ARNOW, B. ALBEE, and A. WYCKOFF. XIV + 663 p. University of Utah Printing Service, Salt Lake City. 1980. Softbound $14.95.

This flora provides a complete treatment of the vascular plants of two counties (Davis and Salt Lake) in northern Utah. Although the area is small (ca. 100 mi^2), it supports a relatively rich flora of 1139 species (474 genera, 102 families). The flora is drawn from habitats that range from salt desert through saline marshes to foothill grasslands, montane forests and alpine herbland. Species included have all been collected in the area: there are no hypotheticals. The treatment is based on herbarium materials and intensive personal collecting by the authors. Full and original descriptions based on local materials are presented for all species except the grasses and sedges. Those taxa were not described because it was considered desirable to keep the book at a manageable size for field use. The keys, with few exceptions, are unambiguous and adequate to permit definite identification of most taxa considered. There are minor problems with single leads in the generic keys for Aceraceae and Apiaceae. Subspecific taxa are not considered in the keys, but where such taxa do occur in a species in our area, they are discussed in the species descriptions. Taxonomic problems with specific groups receive mature treatment throughout the book. There has been a generally successful attempt to bring the nomenclature up to date: synonyms in recent use are given after the correct names. Good habitat data are reported for all species. Families are alphabetically arranged, but a phylogenetic ordering of families (Cronquist's) is given in the preface. An illustrated glossary is included.

Perhaps one of the most significant contributions of this excellent work is its detailed consideration of introduced species that grow apart from cultivation. About 20% of the species treated are introduced. A number of the species are reported for the first time in Utah. Use of Old World herbarium materials and floras and correspondence with Old World authorities have permitted the authors to produce the first authoritative treatment of alien plants in the area. Places of origin and dates of introduction (when known) are given for the aliens.—K. T. HARPER, Dept. of Botany and Range Science, Brigham Young Univ., Provo, UT 84602.